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United States Patent [19][11] **Patent Number:** **5,524,201****Shwartz et al.**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Jun. 4, 1996**[54] **METHOD OF PREPARING AN ELECTRONIC BOOK FOR A COMPUTER SYSTEM**[75] Inventors: **Scott L. Shwartz**, Scottsdale, Ariz.;
David R. Dunham, Seattle, Wash.[73] Assignee: **Apple Computer, Inc.**, Cupertino, Calif.[21] Appl. No.: **147,055**[22] Filed: **Nov. 3, 1993**[51] **Int. Cl.⁶** **G06E 3/14**[52] **U.S. Cl.** **395/161; 395/155; 395/145**[58] **Field of Search** 395/155, 161,
395/159, 157, 145; 345/145, 179; 364/237.1,
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Primary Examiner—Raymond J. Bayerl*Assistant Examiner*—Crescelle N. dela Torre*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Hickman Beyer & Weaver[57] **ABSTRACT**

A method and system for preparing interactive references having pages which can be displayed on the screen of a pointer-based computer system. Some of the reference's pages have "live" features or icons which the user can select to cause various actions such as moving to other locations within the reference, displaying dialog boxes on the screen, etc. The present invention converts a document containing appropriate comments into a set of instructions for an interactive reference according to a defined sequence of steps. First, the document is separated into content blocks delineated by content commands. Each such block can be separately formatted for use in the interactive reference. Next, the system creates page descriptions in which the content blocks are arranged on pages whose boundaries are defined by the display screen of the computer system on which the interactive references will be displayed. In addition, the system prepares instructions for treating pointer actions on buttons and other live screen features. Finally, commands describing the interactive reference, are output. The commands will be provided a format, at least when compiled, that can be stored and processed in the computer on which the interactive reference is displayed.

31 Claims, 21 Drawing Sheets